



Arizona State Retirement System

3300 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012
WWW.AZASRS.GOV

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ASRS opposes House Bill 2171

The Arizona State Retirement System has received numerous telephone calls and emails from members concerned about a recently-introduced piece of legislation that appears aimed at funding of the private Science Foundation Arizona by using ASRS investment dollars.

The bill, House Bill 2171, requires the ASRS Board of Trustees to authorize the Director of the ASRS to invest 0.1 percent (approximately \$20 million) of the retirement system's trust fund in Science Foundation Arizona, a non-profit organization dedicated to building and strengthening medical, scientific and engineering research programs in Arizona.

Although the bill, if passed into law, may not mandate the ASRS to make the investment, it would mandate the ASRS Board of Trustees to authorize the Director to make such an investment.

The Arizona Constitution states that the assets of state public retirement systems are "separate and independent trust funds and shall be invested, administered and distributed as determined by law solely in the interests of the members and beneficiaries."

The ASRS applies strict investment criteria before making any investments of trust monies, including analyzing risk, expected rates of return, historical returns and other criteria. ASRS funds are managed by qualified internal investment staff and outside fund managers, and are overseen by the ASRS Board of Trustees and an Investment Committee of the Board.

The ASRS produces a weekly ASRS Bill Tracker that contains a number of bills related to the retirement system that are in the legislative process. To track the progress of these bills, including HB 2171, please refer to the ASRS Bill Tracker, posted to the ASRS website under the ASRS Central section, Legislation and Rules page.
